

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 10, 15, and 16 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 7-8 are amended to clarify the claim limitations therein. Claims 10, 15, and 16 are allowed. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by this response.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over KR 10-2002-17576 to Jung et al. (hereinafter as "Jung") in view of US Patent Publication No.: 2005/0221856 to Hirano et al. (hereinafter as "Hirano").

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jung and Hirano, and further in view of US Patent Publication No.: 2003/0058236 to Neal (hereinafter as "Neal"). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jung, Hirano, and Neal, and further in view of US Patent Publication No.: 2002/0018525 to Nishi et al. (hereinafter as "Nishi").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, and requests reconsideration and allowance of these claims in view of the following arguments.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant notes with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of independent claim 10 and depending claims 15 and 16.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

CLAIMS 1-7

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jung in view of Hirano.

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite “wherein a first image is produced from an object having a first and second categorical features and a second image is produced from the object of the first image, such that a first value is attributed to a first midpoint of the first categorical feature and a second value is attributed to the second categorical feature.” Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 1 and 7 recite limitations similar to allowed independent claim 10 with regard to producing the second image.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Jung fails to teach or suggest the above-identified claim limitations with regard to producing the second image and that Hirano fails to cure the deficiencies of Jung. Therefore, Claims 1 and 7 are believed to be patentable over the combination of Jung and Hirano.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

CLAIMS 8 and 9

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jung and Hirano in view of Neal. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jung and Hirano in view of Neal and further in view of Nishi.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from independent claim 7, and as stated above, Jung fails to teach or suggest the limitations recited in the claims. Therefore, as stated above, claim 7 is believed to be patentable over Jung. Applicant respectfully submits that neither Hirano, Neal nor Nishi, alone or in combination, cures the deficiencies of Jung, in regards to “wherein a first image is produced from an object having a first and second categorical features and a second image is produced from the object of the first

image, such that a first value is attributed to a first midpoint of the first categorical feature and a second value is attributed to the second categorical feature," as recited in claim 7.

Accordingly, claims 8 and 9 are allowable at least by virtue of their respective dependency from allowable independent claim 7.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and the claims are in condition for reconsideration on the merits, thus favorable reexamination of the application is requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (213) 623-2221 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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